



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF THE FISCAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC 20227

June 18, 2019

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 63671
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: FOIA #2019-04-092 aka #2018-11-072 **Narrowed Scope**

Sent via email at: 63671-91261506@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Sirs:

This is in response to your email, dated April 13, 2019, which was in response to our correspondence concerning the scope of your request. Your email stated that you were willing to narrow the scope of your initial request to exclude the paper off-site storage records. You also outlined the records that you are still seeking, as:

1. ...the entire database files for the current judgment fund database, starting April 2008;
2. ...the older database files for the older judgment fund database, maintaining all other records prior to that date, in their original format (or a mutually agreed export format, such as SQL), together with (in native format, or PDF if only available on paper) all technical and other manuals about the databases (e.g. describing their schema, use, ETL instructions, etc).

In addition, you stated:

“I specifically do not request that you search the database, nor that you restore the older database. I will do so myself using my own computing resources, and simply require the database files and related documentation in order to do so.”

“I ask that you first produce the documentation (manuals, schemas, etc.) for both the ‘current’ and ‘old’ databases, so that we can have a mutually informed discussion of how to best address any remaining issues (e.g. making categorical redactions in bulk by use of a trivial Unix shell script).”

The current database involved in accessing these records maintains records dated back to October 2002; this was previously stated incorrectly as April 2008. However, to access records prior to 2009 you must select “2009” in the drop down menu that allows you to select the year for your search. Then, with 2009 selected, select the drop down arrow again and the menu will now display earlier years as search choices, back to 2002. This database maintains fields such as:

Defendant Agency Name, Jurisdiction, Court Jurisdiction, Defendant Agency File Number, Submitting Agency File Number, control Number, Payment ID Number, payment Sent Date, Principal Amount, Principal Citation Code, Principal Citation Code Description, Attorney Fees Amount, Attorney Fees Citation Code, Attorney Fees Citation Code Description, Cost Amount, Cost Citation Code, Cost Citation Code Description, Interest Amount, Interest Citation Code, Interest Citation Code Description, Confirmed Payment Amount, and Reimbursable. All of the information in these fields are readily available for query by the public located at: <https://jfund.fiscal.treasury.gov/jfradSearchWeb>.

This public-facing search feature is linked to our internal database and makes available the information that you are looking for. This is the same database used by Fiscal Service when conducting Judgment Fund queries. If there are other pieces of information that you are interested in obtaining, please let us know what that information is and we will research its availability, and whether it is eligible for disclosure or protected by the Privacy Act or other requirements.

All other records dated prior to 2002 are in an older database that would need to be restored before we could extract this same data. This process is burdensome and would not be feasible for us to accomplish; nor can we provide the public copies of our full database(s) due to security and privacy concerns. This database may have data fields which are subject to FOIA exemptions from disclosure and/or which we may be prohibited from disclosing by law.

If you consider this response to be a partial denial of your FOIA request, you have the right to administratively appeal the partial denial within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must be in writing, must be signed by you, and should contain the reason(s) why you are appealing. Your appeal should be addressed to:

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Fiscal Service
FOIA APPEAL
Attn: FOIA Disclosure Office/Room 508B
3201 Pennsy Drive, Building E
Landover, MD 20785

Both your letter and its envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The deciding official on your appeal will be the Fiscal Service Commissioner or her designee.

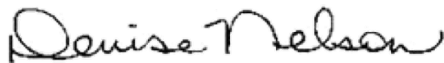
Additionally, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road–OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
ogis@nara.gov
ogis.archives.gov
202-741-5770
1-877-684-6448

Please include your FOIA identification number on all related correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "N".

Denise Nelson
Co-Disclosure Officer

cc: FOIA Files